

Appl. No. 09/630,900
Amendment Dated August 19, 2003
Responsive to Final Action of April 25, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace in their entirety the three paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 19 and ending on page 4, line 19, with the following three amended paragraphs

--Referring to Fig. 1, a preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises a wastewater treatment apparatus 10 and an optional separate wastewater receiving tank 12. Apparatus 10 includes an external jacket 14 substantially cubic in shape. Contained inside and spaced from jacket 14 is [[a]] an interior heat generating chamber 16 (e.g., 4 inches wide at its four sides and 6 inches at its bottom) which is defined at its outside by a heating vessel 18 (e.g., 10 gauge steel) having side walls and a bottom wall as shown, and on the inside by a fluid (e.g., wastewater) receiving vessel 20 preferably of titanium or stainless steel (e.g., about 24 inches in all three dimensions and 15½ gauge). Heating vessel 18 in turn is spaced from outer jacket 14 by an air space 22 (e.g., about 2 inches in width on all four sides and at its top and bottom) to insulate jacket 14. Although not shown, heating vessel 18 may be supported at its bottom by jacket 14 using vertical posts or the like. The bottom of jacket 14 also contains a number of spaced vent holes 15 to admit ambient air into air space 22 both to keep jacket 14 cool to touch and to create air flow to facilitate vapor exhaust.

--Fluid receiving vessel 20 as shown includes side walls, a bottom wall and at least a partially open top. Fluid vessel 20 in turn is supported by heating vessel 18 by outwardly extending (e.g., 4 inch) flanges 24 at the top of all four sides sitting atop similar, inwardly extending flanges 26 at the top of all four sides of heating vessel 18. As thus shown in Figs. 1 and 4, heating chamber 16 extends across the bottom wall and the height of the side walls of fluid vessel 20. Vessels 18 and 20 may be welded together by their respective flanges, but preferably are held together by detachable means such as stainless steel bolts to enable vessel 20 to be readily removed for maintenance of heating chamber 16 and the heating elements to be described.

--Within heating chamber 16 and below vessel 20 as shown in Fig. 4 are a 10 kilowatt

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array of preferably three serpentine electric heating elements 30 (e.g., flat bar stock with 8 watts per square on 5½ inch centers between bars), the electrical power to which is provided by leads 33 as shown in Fig. 4 to a control panel 28. In addition, heating chamber 16 is substantially filled (e.g., about one half the depth of chamber 16) with about 50 gallons of a non-toxic, heat transfer liquid mineral oil 32 such as PARATHERM NF Heat Transfer Fluid supplied by Paratherm Corporation of Conshocken, PA, to evenly distribute to vessel 20 the heat generated by heating elements 30 and causing the wastewater contained in the fluid vessel to boil and evaporate while enabling the contaminates in the wastewater to settle in vessel 20 in concentrated form for later disposal. Also as shown in Figs. 1 and 4, heat transfer oil 32 fills at least the entire bottom and a substantial portion of the sides of heating chamber 16. Such a mineral oil can be heated up to 600°F, which on being so heated begins to circulate convectively to carry the heat to the fluid receiving vessel.--

Please replace in its entirety the paragraph beginning on page 5, lines 12-25 with the following amended paragraph:

--The removable wastewater supply tank 12 (e.g., about 24 inches wide and 4 inches high to enable a direct fill from the drain of a power scrubber preferably extends beyond apparatus 10 (say 10 inches at each end) and is mounted on casters 60 to enable the tank 12 to be moved out from under apparatus 10. The top wall 62 of tank 12 includes an access opening through which wastewater is dumped into a removable filter tray 65 placed in tank 12, and supply pump 36 which is mounted on a bracket detachable from top wall 62 (to enable pump 36 to be used with other wastewater supply means) connected by the flexible, detachable hose 35 [[356]] to inlet 34. The example size of tank 12 is sufficient to hold wastewater from a 50 gallon power scrubber. The power cord 57 for pump 36 may conveniently be plugged into a twist lock receptacle 58 in control panel 28 to operate the pump from the control panel. Filter tray 65 is a removable and disposable filter bag into which the waste water is poured to filter out larger particles in the wastewater. Filter tray 65 may be made of any suitable close mesh material such as a polyester

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which when full can be removed and incinerated or otherwise properly disposed along with its
filtered contents. --